

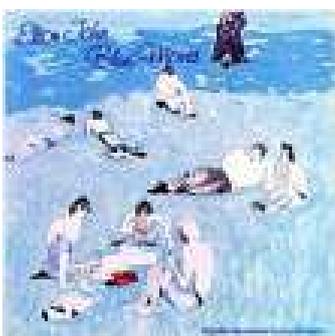
224. Elton John-Medley

Backgrounds of S. Radic

Sir Elton John, (*1947, born as Reginald Kenneth Dwight) is a British singer, composer and pianist. With over 900 million records sold, he is one of the performers with the most records sold. His repertoire ranges from ballads, rock and rock'n'roll tracks to gospel-like blues and boogie numbers.

After the early separation of his parents, Stanley and Sheila Dwight, Reginald Kenneth Dwight grew up with his grandmother Ivy, who motivated him to play the piano. He did not have a good relationship with his father; this relationship, which was marked by a lack of interest in his son, he processed in 1995 in the autobiographical title *Made in England* ("I had a quite father, had a love-me mother"). He began his studies at the Royal Academy of Music in London at the age of eleven. He studied piano and music theory for six years and then founded the band Bluesology with fellow students in 1966. The group accompanied US soul artists and later became the backing band of Long John Baldry. He inspired Dwight to create his stage names by combining the first names of saxophonist Elton Dean and singer "Long" John Baldry to the name Elton John. The name was also officially changed. In 1969 he was able to put a first composition on an album of the Three Dog Night while working on his first solo album.

John has written almost all of his songs since 1969 with lyricist Bernie Taupin, whom he got to know in 1967 during a competition for the post of composer on a newly founded record label called Liberty Records. Sound engineer Caleb Quaye made over 30 test recordings in London's DJM studios between June and December 1967, of which his boss, the music publisher Dick James, initially knew nothing. When he learned of this, on 7 November 1967 he signed a publishing contract with his music publisher DJM Music with talented Elton John and lyricist Bernie Taupin. The foundation of DJM Records followed on 28 February 1969, on which the Elton-John records appeared until September 1976 in the distribution of Pye Records.



1. Tonight was released on the album "Blue Moves", his eleventh studio album, on October 22, 1976 and also his second double album (after *Goodbye Yellow Brick Road*) and his first album was released by his own label "Raket Records Ltd". During live concerts in the Wembley Arena to promote the album, John spontaneously announced: "I won't be touring for a long time. It was a painful decision tonight - this will be the last show". He did not know how long to say, but he meant it seriously and left the tour temporarily. John later explained that "Blue Moves" was one of his favorite albums he ever recorded. The cover for the album is from a painting by British artist Patrick Proctor. In the USA, gold and platinum were awarded in October 1976 by the certified RIAA.

2. Song For Guy is an instrumental piece with music by Elton John. It's the last song from his 1978 album, "A Single Man". Elton said the following in the accompanying text of the 7th single: "... When I wrote this song on a Sunday, I imagined myself floating in space - with a view of my body from above. I imagined dying. Obsessed with these thoughts, I wrote this song about death. The next day I was told that Guy (Burchett), our 17-year-old messenger boy, tragically died on his motorcycle the day before. Guy died the day I wrote that song....."

The song starts with an octaved solo piano. Shortly after the intro a drum set comes into play with additional wind-play noises and synthesizers and the melody guidance repeats itself in layers. The song is instrumental to the end, according to the motto "...life is not everything..." and the primary melody of the song is constantly repeated. It is one of the few songs written by John alone.

Step-by-Step-Program.

Tempo: 125
Auflösung: 4-4

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4								
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16

Hi-Hat

Rimshot

Tom High

Tom Low

B-Drum

Real-Time-Program.

Drums

Break

Strings

Piano

BASS

Programming instruction

This Bossanova programming is noticeable by the increase of the Toms. The toms could also be replaced by other percussions, like timbales, congas or bongos. Instead of the snare, of course, the rimshot should be used. 2-stroke programming is necessary, since the Bossanova phrase of the rimshot runs over two bars. A very special rhythmic figure, consisting of a combination of chords and individual notes, has to be programmed in the accompaniment. The sound of this figure is defined as "piano", but could also be a guitar. The strings lay down a deep chord carpet and the bass with fundamental sticks to the dotting of the bass drum. The break only affects the second half of the bar.